

JOHNSON CITY PRESS CHRONICLE (TN)  
26 DECEMBER 1982

## Old standby defense

Some football coaches will tell you that the best defense is a good offense.

Bulgaria is hardly big in football — but the communist nation apparently recognizes some of the techniques.

We noted several days ago that some of the ties from the attempted assassination last year of Pope John Paul II were reaching back to Bulgaria — and to its secret police.

Now we see the Bulgarian press has charged that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was involved in last year's attempt by a Turkish terrorist to kill the pope.

The Bulgarian charge follows the arrest of a Bulgarian airline official in Italy in connection with the attack on the pope. Italian officials investigating the attack are also looking for two

other Bulgarians they want to interview in connection with the case.

An article in the Bulgarian newspaper Pogled said any suggestion of Bulgarian involvement in the attack on the pope is nonsense.

The article suggested the CIA was involved with the Turkish terrorist Mehmed Ali Agca, who is serving a life sentence in Italy for the attack on the pope.

Poor old CIA. It gets blamed for everything that goes wrong all across the globe. Somehow, we doubt the CIA is involved with a try on the life of the pope. Rather we see a Bulgarian smoke screen, trying to becloud the issue of Bulgarian involvement — and, perhaps even more critical, Soviet involvement.